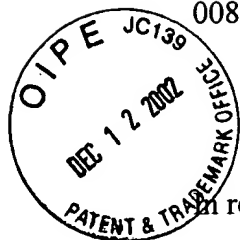


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PATENT APPLICATION



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

HIROSHI SATOMI ET AL.

Application No.: 09/547,284

Filed: April 11, 2000

For: INFORMATION PROVIDING
METHOD, INFORMATION
PROVIDING SYSTEM,
TERMINAL APPARATUS, AND
STORAGE MEDIUM STORING
INFORMATION PROVIDING
PROGRAM

)
:
Examiner: E. Colbert

)
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Group Art Unit: 3624

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:
December 11, 2002

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed on the enclosed PTO-1449 form. Copies of the listed documents are also enclosed.

The concise explanation of relevance for the non-English documents is given in the attached English-language abstracts. In addition, the Examiner is requested to consider the following comments:

JPA 8-223206 discloses a well-known mechanism of an IP address, in which, when an IP address of 32 bits is sorted with a network number portion and a host number portion, a number of bits for the network number portion is assigned according to

classes A to C. When using a sub-network, a sub-network portion of an IP address is extracted from the IP address by means of a sub-net mask.

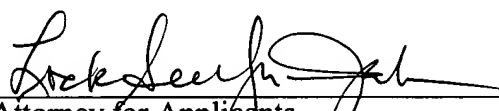
STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)

Each item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing date of this Statement.

It is respectfully requested that the above information be considered by the Examiner and that a copy of the enclosed PTO-1449 form be returned indicating that such information has been considered.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicants
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